SALASTINA

SEASON FIFTEEN

2024-2025 WINTER AND SPRING

Dear friends,

I write this letter on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. In the seeming eternity of the past six days, the Palisades and Eaton fires have wreaked havoc on too many lives in Los Angeles, including within our beloved Salastina community – from our artistic collaborators to longtime patrons to personal friends.

Looking out my window, I see clear, blue skies. Their stillness offers little comfort. I recall the feeling of watching the sun come up the day a loved one died. The spectre of wind hangs heavy; is more chaos and destruction yet to come? Do we hope for the rain forecast for Saturday? By the time you're reading this, we'll know.

I worry, too, about less immediate concerns. How will the people I care about pull through? How will our city's culture and economy emerge from this catastrophe? How will the arts sector fare in the long term, when far more basic needs rightfully come first? What will that portend for all the artists who've lost homes? How can I personally, and Salastina as a whole, meaningfully respond to any of this at scale?

As with the weather, only time will tell. For now, you'll see our artistic plans for the next few months enclosed. In the meantime, you can support those affected by the fires in our community on page 21.

Music can't replace a home or restore a lifetime's worth of precious items. It provides only a space for comfort, respite, and community. Thank you for being here to create, renew, and strengthen that community with us. Now more than ever in Salastina's 15-year history, we hope to soothe your spirit, get to know you, inspire you, and bring you joy.

Wishing you safety and comfort,

Maia Jasper White Executive Director and Co-Artistic Director

Contents

3 Season Calendar
- January-March
- April-June

5 Main Series Concerts
- No. 3: Dvořák's Piano Quintet
- No. 4: The Shostakovich Cycle Continues
- No. 5: Mozart, Pasquini, and Bloch

11 Happy Hours
- No. 129: Schubert Lieder with Clara Osowski
- No. 130: The Music and Magic of *Tumble Leaf*

13 BroadStage
- Sunday Morning Music at the BroadStage

14 Sounds Delicious
- An *Alice in Wonderland* High Tea

15 About The Artists
- Salastina
- Resident Artists
- Guest Artists

20 Coming Up At Salastina
- Recordings
- Helping Our Community

22 Membership
- Ways To Help
- Members Benefits

24 Our Gratitude
- Major Donors
- Special Thanks

JANUARY

18

Happy Hour No. 129: Schubert Lieder with Clara Osowski

Saturday, January 18, 2025
@ 11 AM
The Wende Musuem's A-Frame Theater
+ Livestream

FEBRUARY

15

Main Series No. 3: Dvořák's Piano Quintet

Saturday, February 15, 2025
@ 8 PM
Barrett Hall at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music

16

Main Series No. 3: Dvořák's Piano Quintet

Sunday, February 16, 2025
@ 3 PM
Moroccan Room at The Village Studios
+ Livestream

MARCH

7

Main Series No. 4: The Shostakovich Cycle Continues

Friday, March 7th, 2025
@ 8 PM
The Weinstein Performance Space at Chamber Music OC

9

Main Series No. 4: The Shostakovich Cycle Continues

Sunday, March 9th, 2025
@ 3 PM
Rothenberg Hall at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens
+ Livestream

APRIL

11

Main Series 5: Mozart, Pasquini, and Bloch

Friday, April 11, 2025
@ 8 PM
Moroccan Room at The Village Studios

12

Main Series 5: Mozart, Pasquini, and Bloch

Saturday, April 12, 2025
@ 8 PM
Barrett Hall at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music
+ Livestream

27

Sunday Morning Music at the BroadStage

Sunday, April 27, 2025
@ 11 AM
BroadStage

MAY

24

Happy Hour No. 130: The Music and Magic of *Tumble Leaf*

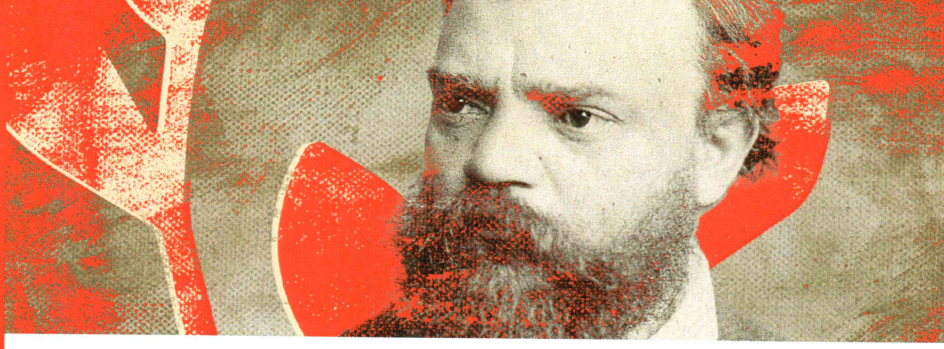
Saturday, May 24, 2025
@ 11 AM
Fine Arts Auditorium at the Wilshire Ebell

JUNE

7

Sounds Delicious: An *Alice in Wonderland* High Tea

Saturday, June 7, 2025
@ 1 PM
Robinson Gardens



No. 3: Dvořák's Piano Quintet

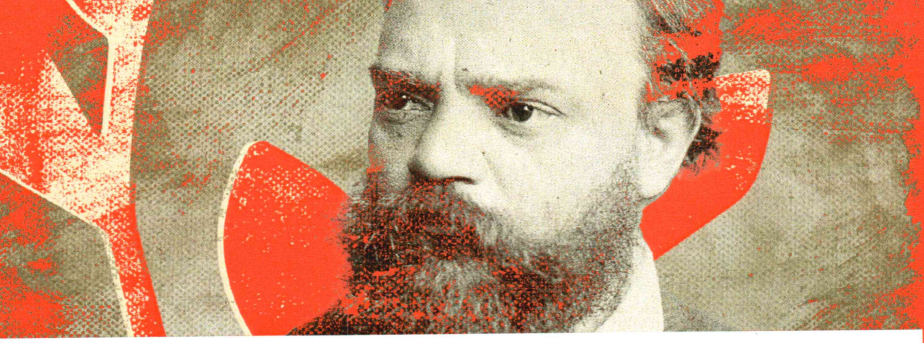
Saturday, Feb 15, 2025
8 PM | Barrett Hall at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music

Sunday, Feb 16, 2025
3 PM | Moroccan Room at The Village Studios + *Livestream*

Power, drama, tenderness, nostalgia, rusticity, patriotism... What is it about Dvořák that's so compelling and familiar? What does it mean to be a "nationalist" composer? Brian explores all that and more as Salastina performs.

Antonín Dvořák: *Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major,* Op. 81

I. *Allegro, ma non tanto*
II. *Dumka: Andante con moto*
III. *Scherzo (Furiant): Molto vivace*
IV. *Finale: Allegro*



- Instrumentation: piano, 2 violins, viola, cello
- This piece began as Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 5. After its premiere, Dvořák was so disheartened that he destroyed the manuscript. Fifteen years later, Dvořák reconsidered the piece, retrieved a copy from a friend, and began working on revisions. Instead of finalizing this version for publication, he started fresh and composed an utterly new quintet. The result blends Dvořák's distinctive lyrical style with elements drawn from Czech folk music.
- Length: 00:39:00

Artists:
Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, Co-Artistic Directors and Violinists
Meredith Crawford, Resident Violist
Yoshika Masuda, Resident Cellist
HyeJin Kim, Resident Pianist
Brian Lauritzen, Resident Host

Tickets $45 | Student $10 | Livestream $10 | Available at Salastina.org

No. 4: The Shostakovich Cycle Continues

Friday, March 7, 2025
8 PM | The Weinstein Performance Space at Chamber Music OC

Sunday, March 9, 2025
3 PM | Rothenberg Hall at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens + *Livestream*

Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 and String Quartet No. 8 are his best-known and most electrifyingly recognizable chamber works. More than many of his other works, they grab you by the spiritual jugular and don't let go. At Rothenberg Hall, Camilla Tassi's immersive, imaginative lighting projections up the emotional ante on this gripping music.

Dmitri Shostakovich: *Piano Trio No. 2*

I. *Andante – Moderato*
II. *Allegro con brio*
III. *Largo*
IV. *Allegretto – Adagio*

- Instrumentation: piano, violin, cello
- this trio depicts "the horrors perpetrated by the retreating German army during the last years of the war...Shostakovich was deeply affected by the stories featured in the Soviet press that SS guards at the death camps of Treblinka and

Majdaenk had forced Jewish prisoners to dig their own graves and dance upon them. This discovery gave rise to the macabre musical imagery that haunts the Trio's Finale..."
-Erik Levi

- Length: 00:26:00

Intermission

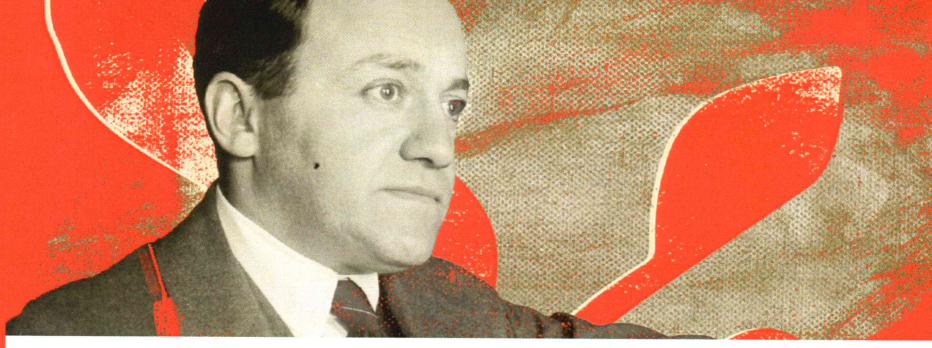
Dmitri Shostakovich: *String Quartet No. 8*

I. *Largo*
II. *Allegro molto*
III. *Allegretto*
IV. *Largo*
V. *Largo*

- Instrumentation: 2 violins, viola, cello
- Length: 00:20:00

Artists:
Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, Co-Artistic Directors and Resident Violinists
Meredith Crawford, Resident Violist
Yoshika Masuda, Resident Cellist
HyeJin Kim, Resident Pianist
Brian Lauritzen, Resident Host
Camilla Tassi, Projection Artist

Tickets $45 | Student $10 | Livestream $10 | Available at Salastina.org



No. 5: Mozart, Pasquini, and Bloch

Friday, April 11, 2025
8 PM | Moroccan Room at The Village Studios

Saturday, April 12, 2025
8 PM | Barrett Hall at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music + *Livestream*

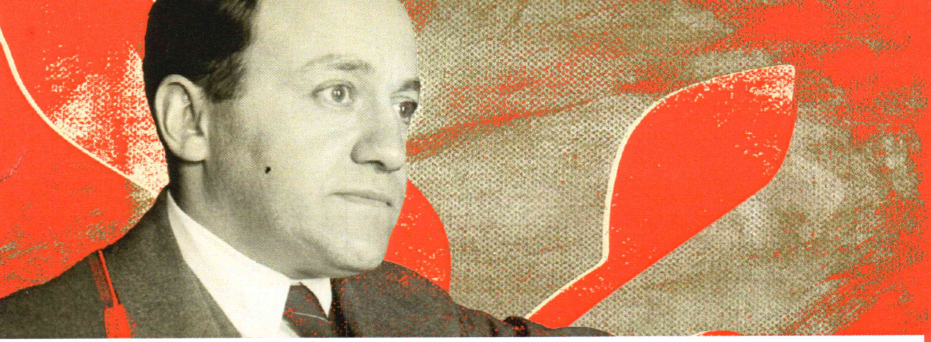
Salastina's artistic family consists of incredible talents. This includes not only our incredible Resident Artists, but also our Sounds Promising Young Composers and alumni. This concert shines a spotlight on them all through soloistic works by Bloch, Mozart, Pasquini, the winner of our 2024 Sounds Promising alumni commission.

Mozart: *Sinfonia Concertante in E flat Major,* K 364

I. *Allegro maestoso*
II. *Andante*
III. *Presto*

- Instrumentation: violin, viola, and string ensemble
- Length: 00:30:00

Intermission



Luca Pasquini: *Haven* (World Premiere)

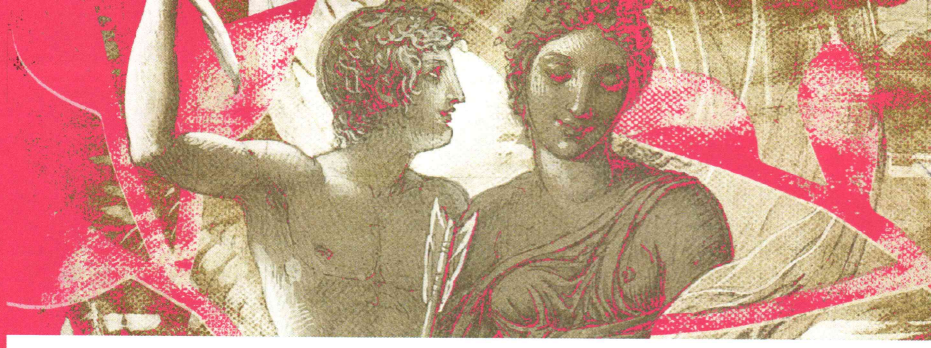
- Instrumentation: string quartet, flute, piano
- Length: 00:15:00

Ernest Bloch: *Concertino*

- Instrumentation: flute, viola, string ensemble
- Length: 00:10:00

Artists:
Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, Co-Artistic Directors and Resident Violinists
Meredith Crawford, Resident Violist
Yoshika Masuda, Resident Cellist
Benjamin Smolen, Resident Flutist
HyeJin Kim, Resident Pianist
Brian Lauritzen, Resident Host
Guest Artists TBD

Tickets $45 | Student $10 | Available at Salastina.org



Happy Hour No. 129:
Schubert Lieder with Clara Osowski

Saturday, January 18, 2025
11 AM | The Wende Museum's A-Frame Theater
+ Livestream

Franz Schubert:

Seligkeit

Three songs of water: *Fischerweise — Erlafsee — Gondelfahrer*

Good versus Evil: *Der Tod und das Madchen — Die Junge Nonne*

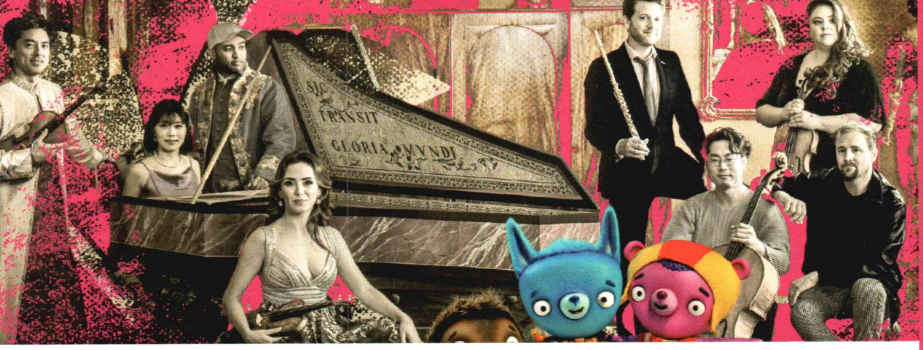
Night Scenes: *Der Wanderer an den Mond — An den Mond — Abendstern — Die Sterne*

Love Story: *Geheimes — Du Bist Die Ruh — Bei dir allein!*

An die Musik

Artists:
Clara Osowski, Guest Mezzo-Soprano
Rodolfo Leone, Guest Pianist

Free, but reservation required | Visit Salastina.org for more information



Happy Hour No. 130: The Music and Magic of *Tumble Leaf*

Saturday, May 24, 2025
11 AM | Fine Arts Auditorium at the Wilshire Ebell

Something new is in the hiding place...

It's the composer and creator of Amazon's hit stop-motion animated children's show, *Tumble Leaf*!

Sing along to the theme song with Lisbeth Scott, the woman who wrote it. Meet *Tumble Leaf* creator, Kelli Bixler, and create your own stop-motion animation with the actual puppets and equipment used in the show. Build your own instruments like Fig and the Beetle Band Bus. Try your hand at real, kid-sized classical instruments like the violin and cello with the help of our musicians — who've played on your family's favorite soundtracks (like *Frozen, Encanto, Moana*, and *Star Wars*). And write your own tunes for Salastina's musicians to play for you right then and there.

Oh, and yes: there will be snacks. *Lots* of snacks.

Don't miss this whimsical, creative, and memorable event — Salastina's first for kids!

Salastina thanks the Seaver Institute for underwriting this event.

Tickets $25 | Student $10 | Available at Salastina.org

SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC AT THE BROAD STAGE

Sunday, April 27, 2025
11 AM | BroadStage

Salastina joins the Broad Main Stage's Sunday Morning Music series with 19th-century German repertoire celebrating romantic love and domestic bliss. On the program: works by Brahms, Schumann, and Wagner. Brian Lauritzen puts the program in a relatable context between pieces.

Artists:
Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, Co-Artistic Directors and Resident Violinists
Meredith Crawford, Resident Violist
Yoshika Masuda, Resident Cellist
Benjamin Smolen, Resident Flutist
HyeJin Kim, Resident Pianist
Brian Lauritzen, Resident Host

Tickets available at BroadStage.org or through the event link at Salastina.org

SOUNDS DELICIOUS

AN *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* HIGH TEA

Saturday, June 7, 2025
1 PM | Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills

The Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills opens its doors to Salastina for an *Alice in Wonderland*-themed High Tea. The venue's exterior boasts a large black-and-white checkerboard floor; terraced, Italianate, and palm gardens; boxwood hedges; roses galore; and quirky signage. The inside features an incredible tea room, library, and music salon. It's the perfect place to bring Lewis Carroll's famed tale to life. Our Sounds Delicious team, including Chef Becky Brown and Experience Designer Mercedes Curran, lend their talents to this immersive, playful, delightfully whimsical event in partnership with the Virgina Robinson Gardens. Don't miss this perfect way to kick off the summer and close out Salastina's 15th Anniversary Season.

Optional valet parking add-on for $55 per car.

Artists:
Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, Co-Artistic Directors and Resident Violinists
Meredith Crawford, Resident Violist
Yoshika Masuda, Resident Cellist

Tickets are $140 per person. Available at Salastina.org

Salastina is a visionary chamber ensemble and presenting organization based in Los Angeles. Winner of San Francisco Classical Voice's Audience Choice Award for "Best Chamber Ensemble" and "Best Streaming Series," Salastina is a 21st-century reimagining of the chamber music salon: a place where musicians and audience members gather to share in the beauty of the art form through performance and conversation, whether in-person for intimate, local audiences or online for tens of thousands around the world.

Salastina presents up to 25 public performances per year, most of which are live-streamed online. Integral to Salastina's live concerts: context and storytelling, dynamically provided by Resident Host and Artistic Partner Brian Lauritzen (a popular KUSC DJ), as well as ample opportunities for audience members and musicians to engage in conversation. As one audience member put it: "Where else can audiences have a personal conversation with a 'famous musician' who might have been a role model and inspiration? People oftentimes can't even pay money to talk to their favorite performers backstage. Yet Salastina has created an arena where musicians and audiences can connect."

In keeping with Gustav Mahler's definition of tradition as "not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire," Salastina invests equally in the Classics and the generation of new music. Salastina's work in this area has been broadcast dozens of times nationally on *Performance Today*. Its tuition-free, highly competitive Sounds Promising Young Composers Program has provided dozens of composers from New York to New Zealand with mentorship and world-class audio-video recordings of their work. Armed with these recordings in their portfolio, alumni have gone on to secure professional commissions. Salastina has also given presentations on career development to students at USC's Thornton School of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

In May of 2020, Salastina partnered with Project: Music Heals Us and UCLA Medical Center to create Vital Sounds, a program bringing the healing power of music to patients in UCLA's Intensive Care Unit. Since then, Salastina has provided over 74,335 minutes of music to over 3,517 patients one-on-one at UCLA Medical Center's ICU and Huntington Health in Pasadena.

Salastina was founded in 2010 by violinists Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White, who continue to direct the series. Its roster consists of Resident Artists and special guests.

To support Salastina's work and learn more about upcoming concerts, visit salastina.org. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube @salastinala.

Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper White co-founded Salastina in 2010. They continue to direct the series together. (And no: they're not married – to each other, that is.)

Maia Jasper White
Executive Director, Co-Artistic Director, and Resident Violinist

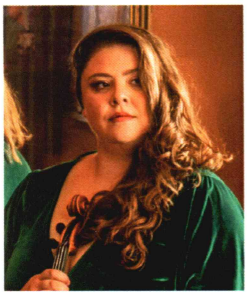
Maia has been obsessed with chamber music since high school. She is a graduate of Yale and was a member of the Pacific Symphony for ten years, and is currently a member of the LA Chamber Orchestra. Like Kevin, she is also a studio musician. She is currently the Director of Chamber Music at Caltech.

She plays on a violin by Mario Miralles and a bow by François Voirin, both generously loaned by Ann Horton. She lives with her husband, composer Philip White, and two kids: Galen and Naomi.

Kevin Kumar
Co-Artistic Director and Resident Violinist

Kevin has been a soloist with orchestras like the Los Angeles Philharmonic and guest concertmaster of orchestras on the U.S. West Coast and around Europe. He is also a studio musician on Hollywood movies, TV shows, and a variety of albums. Fun fact: Kevin was a songwriter/producer for pop artists in East Asia.

He plays on a violin by Mario Miralles and a bow by Cody Kowalski. He lives with his wife and children in California.



Meredith Crawford
Resident Violist

Mer is Principal Violist of the Pacific Symphony. Salastina audiences love her for the way musicality seems to flow effortlessly out of her every pore. She completed her senior year at Oberlin after winning the first professional orchestra audition she'd ever taken. Let the viola jokes fly: she's a goddess, and everyone in our musical community agrees.

Benjamin Smolen
Resident Flutist

Ben is Principal Flutist of the Pacific Symphony and the LA Chamber Orchestra. He has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. This slouch went to Princeton and speaks Russian, having survived a stint at the Moscow Conservatory. Ben is able to coax so much more color and emotion from the flute than most other flutists can. But good luck getting him to say more than ten words about himself.

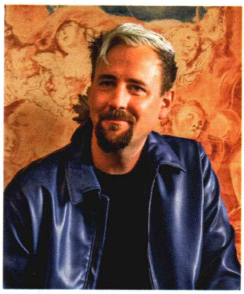
Yoshika Masuda
Resident Cellist

Yoshi is Chair of Strings at Chapman University's Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music. He is a member of Sakura, a cello quintet consisting entirely of other heartbreakers. Born in Japan, Yoshi grew up in Australia and England. His resulting delightful accent is among the least of his many charms. We love how his playing sounds, and feels, like an invitation.

HyeJin Kim
Resident Pianist

Born in Seoul, HyeJin furthered her studies in Germany at Berlin's Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. She is also a recent graduate of the Colburn School. We love how HyeJin marries a warm, collaborative approach with intense star power. The piano is truly something she plays; the wonderfully dynamic facial expressions she makes show just how much fun she's having.

Brian Lauritzen
Resident Host and Artistic Partner



Brian has been Salastina's musical docent since the 2012/2013 season. A DJ for Classical KUSC, his work has been broadcast internationally by NPR and American Public Media. He's a staunch advocate of gender and racial equality in music. We are so grateful for the perspective, relatability, and integrity Brian brings to Salastina's vision. He also has a killer sock collection.

Derrick Skye
Sounds Promising Composer Mentor

Derrick's music effortlessly transcends both genres and cultures, revealing fresh, synergistic commonalities. Recent premieres include works commissioned by the BBC Proms, the LA Master Chorale, and many others. We love playing his music just as much as we love what a fabulous instructor and mentor he is for participants in our Sounds Promising Composer program.

Clara Osowski
Mezzo-Soprano

Mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski, who sings "from inside the music with unaffected purity and sincerity" (UK Telegraph), is an active soloist and chamber musician hailed for her "rich and radiant voice" (UrbanDial Milwaukee). In addition to performing, Clara serves as the Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art song festival in Minneapolis.

Luca Pasquini
Sounds Promising Composer

Luca is a NYC-based composer & pianist. His music has received awards from ASCAP, National YoungArts, National Young Composer's Challenge, Tribeca New Music, Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards, and more. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music at the New York University Steinhardt School, studying under Justin Dello Joio.

Salastina's Resident Artists with composer Eric Whitacre following a recording session for his new work *You Feel Like Home*: Suite from *The Sacred Veil*.

This Fall, Salastina released five world-premiere recordings celebrating the artistic family we've built over the past 15 years. Browse our releases by using the QR code above, or purchase physical CDs and records in the lobby or at our website.

Salastina thanks everyone who has checked in on and offered support for members of our community affected by the fires. To help, please visit www.salastina.org/helping-our-community

Support Our Work

A donation of any amount goes an incredibly long way towards helping us fulfill our mission.

Concert ticket revenue covers only 11% of Salastina's total annual operating costs. For ticket prices to cover the cost of producing a single Main Series concert, we'd have to more than double them.

Need some ideas?

- donate $0; it's free to tell your friends about Salastina
- donate $5, the cost of one single appetizer bite waiting for you outside
- donate $10, the equivalent of a livestream ticket
- donate $25, the equivalent of a ticket to attend a Happy Hour
- donate $45, the equivalent of a ticket to attend one of our Main Series concerts
- donate $100 to sponsor a musician's performance for one Vital Sounds private virtual bedside concert
- donate $600 to sponsor a Resident Artist's performance on a single concert
- donate $1,500 to cover the cost of a concert venue rental
- donate $4,000 to sponsor the full operating cost of one Sounds Promising Young Composer's participation
- Donation over $240 per year automatically qualify you for the Member Benefits outlined on page 15

Your support makes the entirety of our work in the world possible. Whether that means spreading the world about Salastina or making a donation in any amount: thank you.

Donate by scanning the QR code here or by visiting salastina.org/donate.

Deepen your connection to chamber music — and your connection to Salastina's IRL-and-virtual community — by joining our Membership program. Membership begins at $20 per month and is fully tax-deductible.

Membership supports access to great music by:

- supporting **Vital Sounds**, Salastina's virtual bedside concerts for patients at UCLA's ICU and Huntington Health
- making Salastina's live performances available to the public at affordable ticket prices
- ensuring fair compensation for artists' time and talent

Membership nurtures new music and young musicians by:

- ensuring new masterpieces are continually brought to life through Salastina commissions
- covering 100% of the cost of tuition for all participants in Salastina's **Sounds Promising Young Composers Program**

As a token of our gratitude, we are pleased to offer Members — whether virtual or IRL — the following benefits:

- free, on-demand access to our Members-Only Lounge, which contains our complete archive of over 130 recorded events
- exclusive Members-only events
- priority seating
- 20% off all concert tickets at the Friends-level and above
- guest passes to share with friends and family
- ... and more!

$15,000+

Angel Investors

Ann Peppers Foundation (Whittier Trust)
California Arts Council
California Community Foundation/
LA Arts Recovery Fund
California Nonprofit Performing Arts Grant Program
Dr. Diane Henderson
Patricia and Alan Jasper, *in fond memory of Ruth Simon*
Dr. Nirav Kamdar
Jerry and Terri Kohl
June and Simon Li
Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
Ann Moore
The Seaver Institute

$10,000 - $14,999

Platinum Level Corporate Sponsor

Steinway & Sons

Season Sponsors

Patricia and Dennis Burke
Raulee Marcus
Patricia Martinez-Miller
Project: Music Heals Us
Dr. Daniel Temianka and Dr. Zeinab Dabbah
The Paul and Dorothy Borenstein Memorial
Foundation
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999

Concert Underwriters

Ann Horton
Manmohan Kumar
Patricia Leicher
Robert Odenberg and Janette Lewis
Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts
Viren Mehta and Amita Rodman
Philip and Kristan Swan
Mike Wilson
Wendy Yang

$2,500 - $4,999

Gold Level Corporate Sponsor

Chenco

Patrons

Laura Danly
Jon Haile
Florence Fellman and Waldemar Kalinowski
Lisa and Howard Richter
Nick and Amber Shum
Riccardo Torres and Nat Damon

For a complete listing of Salastina's philanthropic supporters, visit salastina.org/sponsors.

Special Thanks To:

- Our family of Donors, Members, and Corporate and Community Sponsors for making the entirety of our work possible
- Cindy Lewis at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music
- Tina Morris at The Village Studios
- Julius Reder Carlson at Mount Saint Mary's University
- Florence Fellman and Waldemar Kalinowski for, a year and a half before the fires subsumed it, for having allowed us the privilege of a photo shoot in their stunning Palisades home
- Dr. Thanh H. Neville, Nurse Sherry Xu, and all our Vital Sounds partners at UCLA
- Dr. Nirav Kamdar, Lizz Zakis, Alison Birnie, and all our Vital Sounds partners at Huntington Health
- Ann Horton, for commissioning instruments from Mario Miralles for Maia's, Meredith's, and Yoshi's use
- Salastina's musicians and staff for their tireless and passionate work
- **You**, for being here

www.salastina.org

Visit our website for more information
about our programs and upcoming events.